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NEWS FROM THE REGIONS
Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL)

Smart Communities

The Western Valley Smart Communities project will provide funding to a Smart Libraries project. In partnership with the Western Counties Regional Library a virtual library will be developed to deliver on-line services, expanding the offerings of the library to the public. Although the Western Valley Smart Communities project targets the Annapolis and Digby County areas, the Smart Libraries Project will benefit all users of the region with a state of the art web presence.

MultiLIS

Increased functionality in the web based catalogue is in the testing stage. Some of the new features that will be available to the public will be the ability to look at their account, showing the material they have on loan, renew their own books, and easily place holds on desired material. These services will be promoted as part of

the Virtual Library offerings.

Branch Services Report

The March Break programmes held in several libraries across the Valley proved to be wildly popular!

"Al Bernard's Magic Show" was offered in three branches. At the Annapolis Royal Library, attendance was 65; at the Middleton Library, attendance was also 65; and at the Kentville branch, the Story Time/Magic Show attendance reached 100.

Mermaid Theatre programmes were filled to capacity at the Wolfville Library. Two Puppet-Making workshops and two Mask-Making workshops allowed 60 children to participate in these fun and educational activities. On April 7th, the Annapolis Royal Library held an Easter Egg Craft & Story Time for ages 5 - 12. Children worked with styrofoam egg forms, scrap material, ribbon, sequins, etc. to create their works of art. Registration was limited to 20, and all slots were filled.

The Wolfville Library CAP Lab held a Safe Internet Seminar on April 25th. Four guest speakers including Sgt. Langille of the Technology Crime Unit, RCMP Halifax discussed the issues and answered questions. Upcoming events include a Professional Development Workshops Series of four career-related workshops at the Annapolis Royal Library throughout May. This is offered courtesy of the Mentoring Program, Western Valley Development Authority. There will be a Marketing Workshop Series of four small business workshops at the Middleton Library in May-June. Courtesy of the Mentoring Program, Western Valley Development Authority.

The Annapolis Valley Regional Library has published its first book. The book was written and compiled by Nick Kasteljanov, CAP Lab Manager. It is called *GET INTO IT - Your Very Own Handy Dandy Reference Brochure*. This is a collection of brochures produced in the Wolfville Memorial Library CAP Lab that were developed to support AVRL computer courses. They reflect the methods used to teach various age groups during the past two years. Everything a beginner needs is here and the content includes information on how to make a Web Page of your own.

The Collection includes:

Absolute Beginners, Windows O.S., Keyboarding, Intro To MS Office, MS Word, MS PowerPoint, WWW, E-mail, Scanning, Intro To Computer Graphic Design, Easy Web Page Design.

This title may be ordered for $10.00 from the CAP Lab's web page at: **http://avrl.library.ns.ca/wocap.**

Cape Breton Regional Library (CBRL)

Library Card Month

Library Card Month at the Cape Breton Regional Library in March was a great success. New library card registrations were the highest they have been for one month in more than twenty years. With the support of the local daily newspaper, the Cape Breton Post and the CBC Radio afternoon show, *Mainstreet*, the library

surpassed its membership goal by more than 200 members. The original goal for Library Card Month was to increase library membership by 1300 during March. Actual registration was 1508.

During March, the Cape Breton Post ran many stories and features about the Library's activities and services. Of particular interest was the information box that ran on page two of the newspaper each day of March. The box contained a tip on improving reading, a library or literacy fact, and the titles of a new adult and a new child's book going into circulation on that day. This feature drew much attention and many comments during the month. Not only did Library Card Month meet the goal of increased membership, it also spread awareness of public libraries and their services in Cape Breton and Victoria Counties.

Staff from the thirteen branch libraries and two bookmobiles helped to make this project a success. These great results are even more impressive considering that the two largest library branches in the region, McConnell and Glace Bay, started on-line services to the public in mid-March. As these branches have the highest registrations, the staff were especially busy during the month with the many changes taking place. They deserve recognition for their grace and calm under pressure.

GED Destinations Project

The Gates Training Centre at the McConnell Library in Sydney has become even more valuable to adult learners in the area thanks to support from the local Human Resources Development Canada office. HRDC has provided funding for the purchase of Destinations software for five terminals in the Gates Training Centre and two new staff for a one year period, a teacher and a lab assistant.

Destinations is a computerized educational software package specifically designed to prepare potential GED (Generalized Educational Development) Program participants to write the GED tests. The software is easy to use and helps to develop critical academic skills such as math, reading, writing, spelling, science and social studies while also enhancing the learner's computer skills.

With this service, more people can get the training necessary to complete the GED tests. The project will maximize use of the Gates Computer Training Centre by offering the GED service evenings and weekends, and when training classes and staff training are not being done. Enthusiasm for this service is high and after only one week, we have twenty people registered in the programmes.

Colchester-East Hants Regional Library (CEHRL)

Teen Friends of the Library

The Teen Friends of the Library is flourishing! A theatre workshop by Brian Sears of Hubtown Theatre prompted the creation of the Teen Friends Players, whose first production, *The Secret at Polk Street School,* was performed during March break for an enthusiastic audience age 5 and up. The performance was taped by the local cable TV for its community programme *Plugged In* and in May there will be a return engagement at the International Tulip Festival.

The Teen Friends' advisory panel reviews books and videos and makes recommendations for additions to the library's collection.

In March, members formed a team to bowl in support of Big Brothers, Big Sisters and in only a couple of days raised $150!

Also in March, Lynda Marsh, Administrator of Youth Services and Janet Tuff, Teen Friends Coordinator, spoke to students taking a course in young adult services at the Dalhousie School of Library Information Studies. The presentation was very well received and after the class an enthusiastic student approached Janet for more information on the Teen Friends. He will be returning very shortly to his native country in the Himalayas, the kingdom of Bhutan, where he will be in charge of programming for the young people of his country.

Seniors Programming

From youth to seniors - every second Wednesday morning, Daphne Cragg, Administrator of Adult and Extension Services leads a newly-formed book discussion group at a local extended care facility. Beginning with the poems of Elizabeth Bishop and A. E. Housman, the group has moved on to tackle books ranging from Peter Mayle's *A Year in Provence,* to Kuki Gallman's *I Dreamed of Africa,* and Bill Lishman's *Father Goose.* The average age of the participants is 92 years. Some read the selected book, others don't. Everyone offers a comment and an opinion. The object of the exercise, from Daphne's point of view at least, is for everyone to have a satisfying chat and a good laugh.

Is a moving day in the future for the library's overcrowded Truro branch and headquarters? The Old Normal College building, a town-owned heritage property, is vacant and the library is one of several groups interested in the space. CEHRL has responded to town council's request for proposals and in support of the library's submission, attached a 693-signature petition that was available to the public for only 6 days; the library now awaits council's decision.

Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL)

Pre-school children in communities such as Port Hood, Inverness and Chapel Island are enjoying a series of reading awakening activities offered by Eastern Counties Regional Library. The regular library visits to schools are also enhanced by the presence of a storyteller. Thanks to a Labour Market Development Agreement grant, these activities will be ongoing throughout the year. Left: A group of very young patrons at the Canso Library.

The first of the library's Libr@ry Links sites are now online. Once automated circulation is integrated into the library's service in schools in September, all of the library's service points will be online.

Sometime soon in May, Branch libraries will have new public access computers, scanners and additional staff hours, thanks to an Industry Canada grant.

Eileen Hanlon, Library Assistant, with some of the after-school crowd at the Canso Library.

Halifax Regional Library (HRL)

Halifax Library launches e-branch

The Halifax Regional Library officially launched e-branch, a new library online, at a ceremony held at Alderney Gate Library on April 5th. Speakers included, CEO Judith Hare, Vice Chair of the library board, Betty Thomas, and library patron, Calinda Brown.

The ceremony, held at Alderney Gate Library on April 5th, included (left to right) Sharon MacDonald, Information Technology Resource Manager and Laura Jantek, Virtual Library & Collection Manager, both of Halifax Regional Library.

Brown shared her enthusiasm about the service benefits of e-branch. "It will help people understand just how

great a range of services the library has. You don't need to be a researcher -you don't even have to understand the Dewey Decimal system," said Brown. She also talked about the practical benefits for her personally, which really put the whole project in perspective.

The presentation finished with a brief demonstration by library staff, highlighting the key interactive services and inviting guests to log on at the public access computers and try it out for themselves. Guests enjoyed an e-branch cake and refreshments. Everyone left with their very own e-branch mouse pad to promote the new website address.

E-branch will constantly change and evolve offering up-to-date information about library programmes. A special Kids Page section of e-branch is underway and should be up on the site by late June, just in time to promote Halifax Regional Library's Summer Reading Program activities. But as the Kids Page bumble bee mascot says, *BEE Patient*!

Here's what you can do with a visit to e-branch:
- Apply for a library card
- Search our collection and request the items be sent to the branch nearest you
- Read a magazine article
- Share ideas about what to read, recommend a title for purchase and submit your very own book review
- Ask a librarian a question through e-mail
- Enroll in online courses in technology, professional development and computers
- Find links to other web sites

So turn the digital page at **http://www.halifax.library.ns.ca**.

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL)

The busy CAP trainers have recently been given a 6-week extension on their positions. This is welcome news to the many patrons that have come to appreciate the services they offer. The numbers of patrons that use the programme is indicative of the need for free computer training and the desire for basic computer literacy as well as some advanced applications. Always well received, they have added a necessary and complementary dimension to our services. The Pictou branch has recently hosting some successful workshops aimed at computer training. The relatively high number of persons attending CAP trainer's Bill Rafuse's sessions indicates this town knows a good thing when they see it.

As a part of the CAP project, CAP Committees have been formed at each branch to further enhance the services offered. The CAP Coordinator Bernice Cameron has invited members of the communities with many backgrounds to volunteer their time and expertise to assist in the outreach of the initiative. By acting as a liaison between citizens and the library, the group hopes to enhance services through the promotion and development of ideas that originate within the users themselves. Monthly meetings ensure ongoing communication and active participation. An example of this outreach would be the ongoing project by the town of Westville to create their own website.

Andria Hill, author of Mona Parsons: *From Privilege to Prison, from Nova Scotia to Nazi Europe*, received a warm welcome here during a recent reading. The popularity of this historic page-turner and Andria's genuine readings continues to rise as a full length account of the story was broadcast on the History Network and the announcement that a CBC Heritage Moment will be created to recognize the heroine's work with downed airmen of World War Two. In addition, the book has been nominated for the Evelyn Richardson Non-Fiction Award and the Dartmouth Book Award for Non-Fiction.

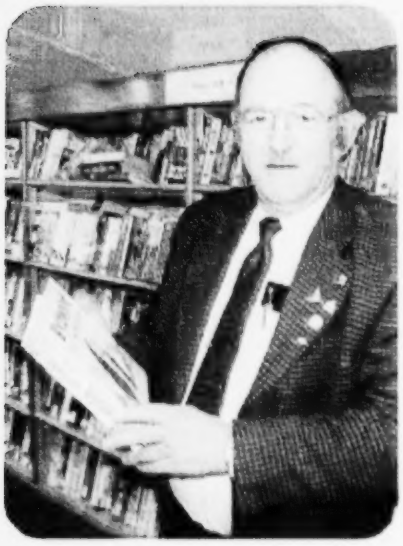
In programming news, Assistant Programmer Steve MacLean's position has been extended for one year due in part to funding supplied by HRDC. Notable programming events coming up in May include readings with authors Harry Thurston, Marjorie Willison and Kent Thompson. On May 17 and 18 there will be a special visit by Kathy Kacer of Ontario, author of *The Secret of Gabi's Dresser*. Her visit to P.E.I. and Nova Scotia has been made possible by a grant from The Canada Council For The Arts and The Writer's Union of Canada. As part of the annual Children's Choice Hackmatack Book Awards she will be reading to over 300 children during her readings in Charlottetown, New Glasgow and Maryvale.

The date for the grand opening ceremony of the new River John Library and Innovation Center has been set for Saturday, June 16 at 2:00 p.m. Invitations have been going out this week to three levels of government extending a welcome for them to attend or say a few short words of congratulations.

South Shore Regional Library (SSRL)

The SSRL Travelling Road Show

The SSRL road show has earned glowing reviews during its limited run engagement playing to select audiences around Lunenburg and Queens Counties. Chief Librarian Janet Clark, Board Chair Tom Sheppard, vice-chair Don Zwicker, and past chair Alan Wilson have been visiting area councils giving library updates to new and returning council members. At Chester and the Municipality of Lunenburg, members were invited aboard the mobile branch to see the library that serves their area. The Chief Librarian distributed library cards to council members prompting one Chester councillor to remark that people seldom give them anything!



Warden Jack Wentzell was one of many visitors to the mobile branch when it came calling on the Municipality of Lunenburg Council in April.

Library Volunteer Policy gets the go ahead

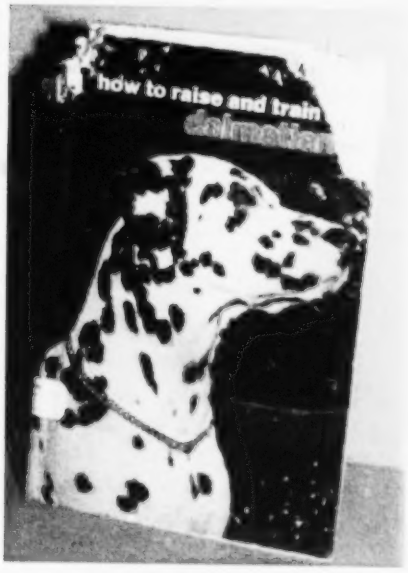
A formalized Volunteer Program is now on the SSRL policy books. The need for staff involvement and a policy arose during public meetings held by the Community Liaison Committee. The committee responded with a board recommendation for a part-time Co-ordinator of Volunteers and development of a volunteer policy. Special Services Readers Co-ordinator, Winifred McCarthy, will take on the Volunteer Co-ordinator role. Winifred worked with Branch and Systems Librarian Frances Anderson and Chief Librarian Janet Clark to develop the policy that was recently endorsed by the board. The goal of the Volunteer Program is to recruit, screen, orient, and place members of the community as volunteers to support and strengthen library operations and programmes. The Volunteer Program sets out guidelines for staff and volunteers. It includes such areas as confidentiality, on-the-job training, probationary period, evaluation, volunteer recognition, planning, and others.

Setting C@P sites on computer literacy

Two Queens County C@P sites are expecting to be busier than ever when seven courses for seniors begin at the end of April. The sites at the DeWolfe Memorial Library in Liverpool and Coastal Queens Place in Port Mouton, are offering basic and advanced 10-week courses. Seniors in South Queens can select from a wide range of time slots and locations to find one that fits their schedule best. The library will also do a session on SSRL's homepage and resources.

Tale of a Sad Dalmatian

It was a sad tale of the book that was borrowed too late. "How to Raise and Train a Dalmatian" by Arthur Liebers was recently returned to a SSRL branch. This sorry, dog-eared, and dog chewed missal recently made an incredible journey back home to the shelves through a library book drop. If only books could talk, this one could likely tell a shaggy dog story or two!



EDNET BANDWIDTH UPGRADE AT THE ALDERNEY GATE LIBRARY

This article was contributed by by Jennifer Evans, Branch Manager, Alderney Gate Library:

In January of this year the Nova Scotia Provincial Library increased the EDnet bandwidth at Alderney Gate Library. Alderney Gate offers public access to the Internet at 23 public access computers, and it is not uncommon to have every one in use for several hours a day. Previous to the bandwidth increase, information services staff dealt with numerous complaints from the public about the slowness of Internet access: "Why is this taking so long?" "I can't get into my Hotmail - it's so slow," "Is there something wrong with this site? I can't get it to load," etc.

After the upgrade in January, the complaints abruptly ceased. Public services staff note a marked increase in customer satisfaction around Internet use. Suddenly, our 15 minute Internet Express, quick e-mail check station is feasible. Satisfaction is also evident in staff access to the Internet. Librarians can now access bookmarked sites for their selection duties at any time of the day; we no longer have to plan to do selections between 9 and 10 am only, before opening to the public. Our staff person who uses the Internet to do bibliographic checking for the region comments, "A very noticeable improvement to my work life happened when the Internet service was improved...I can access...sites quickly, keep all open at the same time so I can visit each site and really feel I can get lots done at any time of day."

Alderney Gate's marketing plan this year includes an objective to promote this resource library as "the premiere Information Technology access point in downtown Dartmouth" - thanks to the generosity of the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, we can now boast of this service.

CAP IN THE ANNAPOLIS VALLEY

Community Access Enhanced in Middleton

The Town of Middleton now has several access points to the Internet, thanks to Industry Canada's Community Access Program and the partnerships formed with various groups in the area and Nova Scotia's Technology and Science Secretariat. The Community Access Program (CAP) works in

partnership with community groups to connect Canadians to the Information Highway and to the social and economic benefits it can present.

The Visitor's Information Centre will have an Internet connected computer available during its tourist season. The Annapolis Valley Macdonald Museum will provide Internet access in its facilities with the installation of a computer. There are many treasures to be found in searching the Internet including genealogy and historic material. The Museum will also have its Internet access available by the start of the busy tourist season. The Town of Middleton is coordinating the implementation of this portion of the project.

The Library at the Nova Scotia Community College, Annapolis Valley Campus, Middleton and the Middleton Public Library are open for public Internet access. The NSCC Library offers Internet access as well as assistance from staff. They will also be acquiring some new computer equipment as a result of CAP. The Middleton public library has received an infusion of new equipment which has replaced out-of-date equipment. The site now has four new computers available for public use, as well as printers.

The public library has been offering computer tutorials through the CAP Program. An after school programme has been occupying children in grades 3 - 5 with theme sessions on a weekly basis. The partners of the Middleton CAP sites will work together to deliver services to the residents of Middleton and the surrounding area.

If you have questions or comments please contact Charlotte Janes, at the Annapolis Valley Regional Library, cjanes@nsar.library.ns.ca or (902) 665-2995.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES (SLIS)

SLIS Students Gaining Valuable Professional Experiences

This month's column is contributed by Heidi Julien, Assistant Professor, School of Library and Information Studies:

With the Winter term successfully behind us, SLIS students are eagerly looking forward to a variety of summer work experiences. These practicums, internships, and summer jobs provide our students with essential practical skills, enhancing their knowledge and their career prospects. Practicum placements have been provided this year by CBC Toronto, Dalhousie University's Electronic Text Centre, the National Library of Canada (Music Division), the Library/Resource Centre at Pier 21, the Saskatoon Public Library, the National Archives of Canada (Art and Photography Archives Section), the University of New Brunswick's Electronic Text Centre, and the Marie Michael Library at the Coady International Institute at Saint Francis Xavier University. SLIS thanks all these organizations for sharing their expertise with our students!

In addition, several students have been awarded summer internships: Amy Chow will be spending several weeks at the New York Public Library with their Diamond Internship Program. Karen MacNeil will be interning at the Colchester East Hants Regional Library in Truro, and the Hannah Institute for the History of Medicine awarded Leanne Wells the Archives/Museum Studies Internship at the Dalhousie University Libraries Archives. Finally, we are thankful for the summer positions provided by CISTI, Dalhousie University (at the DalTech Library, the Law Library, the Kellogg Library, and the Killam Library), and by the Patrick Power Library at St. Mary's University. Future columns will highlight other projects ongoing at the School. For further information about these or any other SLIS

activities and programmes, contact the Director, Bertrum MacDonald, at macdonal@is.dal.ca, (902) 494-2472 or visit the web site at: http://www.mgmt.dal.ca/slis.

NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL LIBRARY NEWS
TRAINING NOTES

Nova Scotia/P.E.I Gale Training on InfoTrac

Stacey Knibloe, Northeast Training Consultant for the Gale Group gave a workshop at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library (NSPL) on April 5th to approximately 20 people representing public library systems from Nova Scotia and P.E.I. She provided searching tips on the best ways to use Gale web based reference databases that included:

- **General Reference Center/ Canadian Periodical Index (CPI.Q.)**
- **Books in Print with Book Reviews (BIP)**
- **Health and Wellness Resource Center**
- **Total Access**
- **Literature Resource Center**
- **"What Do I Read Next?"**

The regional libraries and other subscribing members now have a trial until the end of May of the latter three databases above that were also covered in the session, with a view to evaluating them for possible purchase. For more information, please contact Michael Colborne at 902-424-4852 or colbormb@gov.ns.ca.

Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) Library Technician Program Tour

Left to right: Lynne McCulley, Cataloguer, explains her duties to the students while Jennifer Millman, Instructor, looks on.

Library Technician Program students listening to a description of a Technical Services function.

Staff from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library and Learning Resources and Technology (LRT) gave a

tour to 15 first year NSCC Library Technician Program students on April 4th. Jennifer Millman, Instructor, brought the students of the *Introduction to Libraries and Information Retrieval* class to get a glimpse of a working library and to talk to the staff. Michael Purcell, Automation Specialist, offered an overview of the new user interface of the MultiLIS Web NcompasS Catalogue, which will be put into service shortly. Sarah Hainsworth, Education Media Librarian, showed the students around the LRT section and Gillian Webster, Information Services and Network Librarian, and other staff members gave a brief introduction to the remaining services of the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, including:

- **Reference Services**
- **Professional Services**
- **Special Services**
- **Inter-Library Loan Services**
- **Publications**

STAFFING NOTES

Spring is the season for changes - in our case to Automation Team staffing! Automation Specialists Shirley MacLeod and Michael Purcell are both moving on to new challenges. Shirley left the Nova Scotia Provincial Library on April 26th to take up a position in Charlottetown where the Canadian Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI) is establishing a new Information Centre. Michael Purcell has also resigned effective May 25th. Mike has plans to travel in Mexico before checking out the job market in the New York area with his wife Pat, also a librarian and currently at Dalhousie's Kellogg Health Sciences Library.

Mike and Shirley have done excellent work in training and supporting staff in regional libraries across the province and will be widely missed. Their colleagues at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library in particular wish them all the best in their new activities.

Pam Perry, who joined our staff under the LibraryNet Program to develop the Extranet for our client libraries, has completed her term. Pam tells us she "really learned a lot" during this placement and certainly she has left us with solid evidence of her good work in the new Extranet site.

HOT TIPS & UPDATES

SPRING FINALE FOR HACKMATACK 2001!

While the preparations for the French and English Hackmatack Award 2002 are under way, nominees for this year's award are busy packing their suitcases, to set off on tours in participating communities throughout the region.

Thirteen authors, nominated for the Hackmatack Award 2001, will offer readings in more than 60 schools and libraries across the Atlantic region. Author Tours 2001 are organized in conjunction with several Nova Scotia Regional Libraries, the Hackmatack Award Committee, and volunteers from library and literary agencies in the Atlantic region. For a full list of readings, contact the Hackmatack office at the address below or visit the Writers Federation of Nova Scotia (WFNS) website at http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Culture/WritersFed.

The second annual Hackmatack Award ceremony will take place on Saturday, May 19th, 1.00 - 3.00 p. m. at the Alderney Landing Theatre in Dartmouth. To reserve seats at the event, please send a message to hackmatack@hackmatack.ca or call us at 902-424-3774.

ROYAL BANK SUPPORTS HACKMATACK AWARD

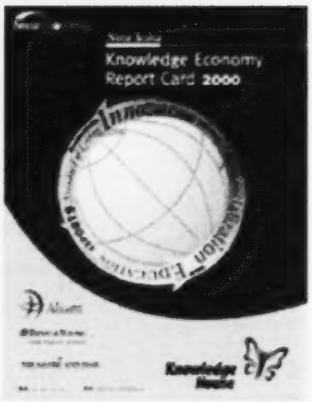
Left to right: Monika Sormova, Hackmatack Co-ordinator, Arlene Watts, Special Services Library Assistant, and Elizabeth MacDonald, Manager of Public Affairs and Communications, Royal Bank of Canada, Atlantic Region.

On April 4th, Ms. Elizabeth MacDonald, Manager of Public Affairs and Communications for the Atlantic region of the Royal Bank of Canada, visited the Nova Scotia Provincial Library to present a donation to the Hackmatack Award. The Royal Bank has been an active supporter of the Atlantic Children's Choice Book Award from the beginning. The new $5,000.00 donation will assist with the development of this popular children's reading and literacy programme in both official languages. It will enable both English and French audiences in the Atlantic region to participate in the award in the upcoming year. Check http://www.hackmatack.ca soon for announcements of the English and French nominations for the Hackmatack Award 2002!

SNEAKERS & SUITS - NOVAKNOWLEDGE 2001 SPRING LUNCHEON SERIES

Shirley MacLeod and Bernadette Kennedy, both of the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, attended the first session of the NovaKnowledge 2001 Spring Luncheon Series held on April 11th, 2001 at the World Trade and Convention Centre, Halifax. The session featured Andre Boysen, Co-founder and Chief Technical Officer of 724 Solutions Inc., who spoke to a large gathering of professionals from various sectors of the Information Technology industry in Nova Scotia. For more information on 724 Solutions visit the company's website at http://www.724.com.

Mr. Boysen described his approach to delivering leading-edge service to the financial industry, especially in the area of assisting businesses to provide secure financial transactions over the World Wide Web. He stressed the need for the government to intervene in the economy by reducing taxes, removing income taxes, and creating scarcity, to create a "want to be there" for businesses, and suggested promoting the area as a lifestyle choice as well as a good place to do business. His advice to entrepreneurs was to remain committed to their dreams, focus on a strategy and do it "really well." For more information on the NovaKnowledge 2001 Spring Luncheon Series, go to http://www.novaknowledge.ns.ca/events/luncheonseries.htm.



*Nova*Knowledge
promotes the development of a flourishing, sustainable, knowledge economy that offers a good quality of life for all Nova Scotians.

COMPETITIVE INTELLIGENCE PROGRAMME SPONSORED BY CASLIS AND SCIP

Friday, April 27, 2001, McMechan Auditorium, Killam Library, Dalhousie University, was the setting for an enthusiastic presentation by Dr. Conor Vibert, Assistant Professor of Business Policy at Acadia University, concerning Competitive Intelligence in the Maritimes. The session was sponsored jointly by the Canadian Association of Special Libraries and Information Services (CASLIS) Atlantic Chapter and the Society of Competitive Intelligence Professionals (SCIP).

Dr. Vibert gave an overview of Agency Theory, which focuses on how shareholders can protect themselves from agents (ie top management), and described the teaching application he uses to instruct Acadia University students about competitive intelligence. His strategy involves students working in groups using ICQ free online communication software to create competitive intelligence reports, while critiquing those prepared by other students.

Dr. Vibert mentioned a number of websites he uses in his instruction. These include:

ACB News.com for current news items http://abcnews.go.com
http://10k wizard.com for company filings information http://www.10kwizard.com
Webfeet.com for an industry overview http://www.wetfeet.com/asp/home.asp
Company filings and annual reports http://www.freeedgar.com

Findlaw.com for contracts and legal information http://www.findlaw.com
Hoovers.com for information on competitors http://www.hoovers.com

THE CANADIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (CLA)

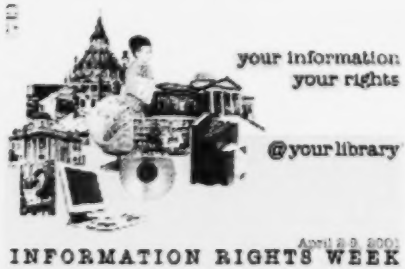
The Canadian Library Association (CLA) has released the report *Writing the Future: Shaping the Canadian Library Association in the 21st century*. The report is the result of a year of consultations with the library community by a Commission appointed in November 1999 to address critical issues concerning the Association's future viability. The text of the report can be found at: http://www.cla.ca/commission/comment.htm. Feedback is encouraged through the CLA listserv or by using the comment box on the web site.

INTERNET DILEMMA: FILTERED OR NON-FILTERED TELECONFERENCE

On April 11, 2001 the Nova Scotia Provincial Library hosted the viewing of the *Internet Dilemma: Filtered or Non-filtered* teleconference. During the teleconference a panel of four professionals discussed the issues surrounding Internet use in public libraries and the use of Internet filters in libraries in the United States.

Andrew Jacobs, Jr., Author, Attorney, and former member, U.S. House of Representatives, began the session by expressing his concern over the vagueness of the definition of "objectionable material." He referred to current filtering software as being flawed and spoke about the need for filtering tools that accurately block inappropriate material. Next Carrie Gardner, Coordinator, Library Media Services, Milton Hershey School, Pennsylvania, gave an overview of the types of filtering technology that exist and described how each functioned. She expressed her concern over the ineffectiveness of the software and the fact that filtering affects the role the library plays in the community and as a result is best handled at the local library level.

INFORMATION RIGHTS WEEK IN CANADA



"Your information, your rights@your library." Not only was this the theme of Information Rights Week for 2001, but it was one of the first uses in Canada of the "@your library" slogan, now widely used in the US by the American Library Association. Celebrated across Canada this year on the week of April 2-9, the eighth annual Information Rights Week focused attention on libraries' long and respected tradition of protecting the information rights of citizens.

The week was marked in Nova Scotia by a resolution in the House of Assembly by the Minister of Education, Jane Purves, and a proclamation by Premier John Hamm sponsored by fourteen organizations with an interest in the subject. A media release from the Department of Education

highlighted the role of libraries play in making information available to Nova Scotians:

" If knowledge is power, then libraries are a powerful resource. "Access to information is essential for Nova Scotians to participate effectively in today's economy," said Education Minister Jane Purves. "By increasing the number of public Internet sites in libraries and providing more government services online, we're making information more accessible than ever."

As more information moves from print to electronic formats, libraries in Nova Scotia have been making sure that appropriate access is maintained. Nova Scotia was the first province in Canada to offer free public Internet access in all public library branches. Partnerships with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Industry Canada's Community Access Program have continued to enhance the level of technology available to Nova Scotians. "Nova Scotia's libraries are well positioned to meet the challenges of electronic publishing, through public access computers and training opportunities," said Acting Provincial Librarian Elizabeth Armstrong.

Established in 1994 by the Canadian Library Association, Information Rights Week is observed across Canada and is intended to raise public awareness and provide information on such issues as the Internet and access to government information."

SUMMER READING PROGRAMME 2001 UPDATE

The Summer Reading Programme (SRP) for 2001, "Don't Bug me...I'm Reading! Ne m'embête pas...je lis!" is well underway with the arrival of the first of this year's promotional material. The theme is one of bugs and nature. To accompany and promote the annual theme, a number of items are produced. The promotional material this year includes the ever popular t-shirts and sweatshirts, posters, buttons, pencils, bookmarks, fridge magnets, mousepads, stickers, and a new item, tattoos! View the SRP graphic at http://www.library.ns.ca/children/index.htm and click on Summer Reading Programme. Contact Arlene Watts at wattsam@gov.ns.ca for enquiries.

RIVER JOHN COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAM (CAP) *FELICITER* ARTICLE

The River John CAP site has been garnering wide attention lately! For information on the activities there, please refer to the following article on the River John CAP site.

Stackhouse, Eric. "River John Library and Innovation Centre: Community Economic Development the Public Library Way." *Feliciter*, volume 47, number 2, 2001: 87 - 89.

JOIN US AT AMTEC 2001!

AMTEC is holding its 28th annual conference at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 3-6, 2001. AMTEC is the Association for Media and Technology in Education in Canada. AMTEC 2001 (*Making IT Work: Effective Educational Technology in the New Millennium*) will be held at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Complex, Dalhousie University. Attendees will have some 60 concurrent sessions to choose from, each one reflecting current and future thinking about the application of technology in K-12 and post-secondary education. For more information, check out AMTEC 2001 at http://amtec2001.ednet.ns.ca.

WHERE THEY ARE NOW

This article was contributed by Andrea John, Information Management Administrator, Nova Scotia Department of Education:

I am now back with the Nova Scotia Department of Education, as Information Management Administrator for the Nova Scotia Department of Education. I administer the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act in the department, which means I receive applications, review relevant records, interpret exemptions from disclosure, and ensure that people's personal information is protected. Applicants range from private citizens, MLAs, members of the media, to community organizations, and the information requests are always intriguing. I also manage the filling of vacancies on the department's agencies, boards and commissions, and have overall responsibility for the records management, library and publishing services of the department. This job is a departure from all the library work I have done in the past, but it has worked out very well.

After I left Provincial Library as Coordinator, User Services, I taught in the Library and Information Technology Program at the Nova Scotia Community College.

Andrea John's two children, Paul (4 years) and Nicole (18 months).

On a personal note, we recently renovated a house in the south end from top to bottom - that was a huge adventure. And, I am a proud mom to Paul (4 years) and Nicole (18 months). While I hardly have any time left for myself, I think being a working mom captures the best of two worlds. The kids and the cat collectively run the roost at home, and make sure to keep mom and dad in their places.

REFERENCE ON THE NET

Here are some more reference questions referred to the Provincial Library by the Regional Public Libraries. They were answered using resources found on the Internet.

Q. Where can I find a listing of Canadian and American companies which manufacture products from recycled glass?

A. The Thomas Register of American Manufacturers at http://www.thomasregister.com is a good place to search for this. One time free registration is required to search. Using the Product/Service search, enter the key words "recycled glass." Only one company is found but the term "cullet" which refers to broken or waste glass is used in the product description for it. A further search using the keyword "cullet" located nine companies with the product heading "Cullet", 23 companies with the product

heading "Glass: Ground, Cullet" and 28 companies with the product heading "Mills: Glass & Cullet Crushing." You can browse through these to find relevant companies.

The Kompass Database at http://www.kompass.com/kintl/cgi-bin/KI_PROaction.cgi which has international company information is another useful source for this. Set the search form to "America" and search "Products & services" trying both keywords "cullet" and "glass recycling." This locates 52 companies with the products & services description of "Glass fibres. Glass fibre and waste glass products." The web version of Kompass provides basic company name and address information for free, but a subscription is required to get detailed information on companies.

Q. Would like house building plans for duplexes.

A. You can get telnet access to ACCESS-CMHC which is the online library catalogue of the Canadian Housing Information Centre, part of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation at http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/Library/accmhc/accmhc_001.cfm. At the search menu select "5. SUBJECT Authority Keyword" and search using the keyword "duplexes". This brings up a browse list of subject headings including " Duplexes -- Designs and plans" which has several books on this topic. These books can be borrowed through interlibrary loan from the Canadian Housing Information Centre Library.

LINKed

The subject of this month's Linked column, web sites on entomology or in other words bugs, was inspired by the **2001 Summer Reading Programme theme "Don't Bug Me! I'm Reading! Ne m'embête pas ...je lis!"**

bugbios.com at http://www.insects.org is produced by Dexter Sear. You can search the site for information on a particular bug using the search box on the lower left side of the screen or browse in the four sections on the site. The entophiles section has 98 high quality photographs arranged in 14 insect groupings or orders. Some descriptive text accompanies each photograph. Fulltext articles from Cultural Entomology Digest, a free electronic journal can be found in the cedigest section. The class: insecta section currently has a learning module on butterfly wing patterns and the entolinks section has an annotated listing of links to other entomology web sites.

Insecta Inspecta World at http://www.insecta-inspecta.com is an award winning site by seventh grade students at Thornton Jr. High School, Fremont, California. It has informative articles on common insects and topics connected with them.

ALIEN EMPIRE at http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/alienempire is the web companion to the three-week Nature miniseries seen on PBS television. It is about how insects reproduce, live together in society, migrate, and battle for survival. Plugins have to be down loaded to view videos on the site. There are accompanying instructions for making cricket and butterfly masks including patterns for them which

can be viewed using Adobe Acrobat Reader and printed at http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/alienempire/multimedia/maskindex.html.

Katerpillars (& Mystery Bugs) at http://www.uky.edu/Agriculture/Entomology/ythfacts/entyouth.htm is part of the University of Kentucky Department of Entomology site. There is a "Read More About Insects and Their Relatives" section which has lists of books under different subject headings but unfortunately no age or reading levels are given. The Bug Fun section has games, jokes and crafts.

For the trivia buff, the University of Florida Book of Insect Records 2001 at http://ufbir.ifas.ufl.edu has answers to such questions as which insect is the fastest flier, which lives longest, which is the loudest and which is the heaviest. The answers are backed up by research findings.

For the more serious researcher a good place to start is Iowa State University's Entomology Index of Internet Resources. This is a directory and search engine of insect-related resources on the Internet at http://www.ent.iastate.edu/list.

Finally, The Butterflies of Nova Scotia by Linda and Peter Payzant at http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/~aa095/NSLeps has a Checklist section where butterflies are arranged by families and an Index section with an alphabetical listing of butterflies by name. Both of these sections have links to a page of information for each butterfly including pictures for many of them.

Web sites which were featured in previous "Linked" columns are now arranged by subject category on the Reference Services page of the Provincial Library web site at http://www.library.ns.ca/provlib/brochure/refser.html. If you have any suggestions about future topics for this column please contact Carol Morris at morrisc@gov.ns.ca.

PROFESSIONAL READING

In this month's column, two books of particular interest to public libraries, are featured. These items can be borrowed through regular interlibrary loan channels.

Hooper, Brad. The short story readers' advisory: a guide to the best. Chicago: American Library Association, 2000. [Call #: Prof. 028.9 Hoo]
The author provides an introduction to the world of short-story writing, brief critical essays discussing the work of 150 short-story writers past and present, and a step-by-step guide on how to interview readers in order to match their tastes with stories. He offers the reader a detailed overview of the rich landscape of short-story literature. Appendices and indexes are provided to assist the reader.

University of the State of New York. Regents Commission on Library Services. Meeting the needs of

all New Yorkers: library service in the new century: final report of the regents commission on library services. Albany, NY: University of the State of New York, 2000. [Call #: Prof. 027 Uni]
This report represents the culmination of a two years work by the State of New York Regents Commission to conduct an analysis of the library needs of the State of New York. Through a process of research, public hearings and lengthy discussions, the commission discovered that access to quality library service is not available equally to citizens of the state. Among other things, it found that one million New Yorkers have no public library at all and the state's elementary school students often have meagre library resources and programmes. The commission makes 10 recommendations which constitute an overall plan to enable the citizens of New York State to have a strong library system.

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